

Dutta, Lakshmi

From: Penny Reighart [PReighart@ehe.osu.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 29, 2008 1:45 PM
To: Smith, Randy
Cc: Dutta, Lakshmi
Subject: Proposal to Require C- or Better Grades in Human Nutrition and Nutrition Majors
Attachments: HUMN NTR C- Rule Proposal.1.08.doc

Dear Randy,

The Education and Human Ecology Curriculum Committee and the EHE Faculty Council have approved a proposal to set a higher grade standard for students majoring in Human Nutrition and Nutrition. The Department of Human Nutrition proposes that effective autumn 2008, students must earn C- or better grades in department (HUMN NTR) courses taken in their programs of study.

For OAA review I have attached a copy of the proposal and will also deliver a hard copy to you.

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**Proposal to Require a C- or Better in Course Requirements in Human Nutrition for
Human Nutrition and Nutrition Majors
January 2008**

Proposal

The Faculty in the Department of Human Nutrition request approval to set a requirement of C- or better grade in course requirements in Human Nutrition (HUMN NTR) for Human Nutrition and Nutrition Majors (BS Human Ecology with the major in Human Nutrition or BS Nutrition). This request is based on the standards and expectations of professional and graduate school programs, internships, and employers of students graduating from our program.

Grades of a C- or better in Human Nutrition course requirements will increase the likelihood of overall GPAs that are competitive for admission to dietetic internships, graduate programs and professional schools. Information about the undergraduate programs in the Department of Human Nutrition is provided below.

Curriculum

Ohio State's Department of Human Nutrition offers four programs that cover the breadth of the Nutrition discipline: Nutrition, Dietetics, Nutrition & Community Health, and Nutrition in Industry. Coursework in Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Biology are foundational to all of the programs in the Department of Human Nutrition. The **Nutrition** major is designed for students interested in the metabolism and functions of nutrients and other bioactive dietary compounds especially in relation to health and disease. The math and science requirements of this program meet the prerequisites for the health professional schools and graduate programs in the biomedical sciences. **Dietetics** meets the competencies in nutrition counseling and food service management established by the American Dietetic Association to prepare students to become Registered Dietitians. The **Nutrition in Industry** program combines coursework on the processes and regulations of the food and nutrition industry with the General Business Minor. **Nutrition and Community Health** focuses on behavior change and public health education regarding diet and includes a minor in either Exercise Science or Agricultural Education, or a specialization in Health Education. All four programs result in a Bachelor of Science and are designed to be completed in four years.

Outcomes

The four programs in the department of Human Nutrition prepare students for a range of career options in the field of nutrition. Two of the undergraduate programs, Nutrition and Dietetics prepare students for required post-graduate training that is necessary to become licensed practitioners. The Bachelor of Science in Nutrition program is designed for students interested in the metabolism and functions of nutrients and other bioactive dietary compounds at the whole body, cellular and molecular levels, and especially in relation to health and disease. This program of study is designed to prepare students for admission to medical, veterinary, dental, optometry, or pharmacy school. In addition, a

number of our graduates enter graduate degree programs in nutrition and biomedical sciences. Admission to these post-graduate programs is highly competitive, requiring a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or better. For example The College of Medicine Admissions Committee at The Ohio State University published the academic profile of candidates admitted in 2005 which included a 3.7 grade point average and MCAT composite of 32. At Ohio State the College of Veterinary Medicine, which offers the DVM Degree, requires that Ohio residents must hold a minimum of a 3.00 GPA for admission consideration. Non-Ohio applicants are considered highly qualified if they possess a 3.4 GPA or better.

Students completing the Dietetics track must go on to complete a post-graduate dietetic internship, which is necessary to become a Registered Dietitian. Many of graduates choose to combine their Dietetic Internship with a Master's degree program. An overall GPA of 3.0 is the minimum required for application to these programs. After completing the coursework and internship, students sit for the registration exam.

The Nutrition in Industry program is intended for students interested in careers in nutrition-related businesses and industries. Upon graduation students pursue careers in state and federal agencies that regulate product quality; consumer protection and education; nutrition product development; public relations; and pharmaceutical, food, and equipment sales. Colleagues in both the science and management tracks at a number of targeted employers of such students have shared that they expect students to have a B average (3.0) or better to be competitive for employment.

Nutrition and Community Health prepares students for careers in commodity food organizations, public health agencies, corporate wellness, community development, and nutrition education. Students who complete the Health Education specialization are eligible to take the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) Examination. Certified Health Education Specialists implement health education programs in communities, health care facilities, businesses, colleges, schools, and government agencies. Many of the likely employers for this area (e.g., state Extension agencies) now require the M.S. or M.P.H. for entry level positions. Thus, graduating students need to have performed at the level required for admission to post-baccalaureate positions.

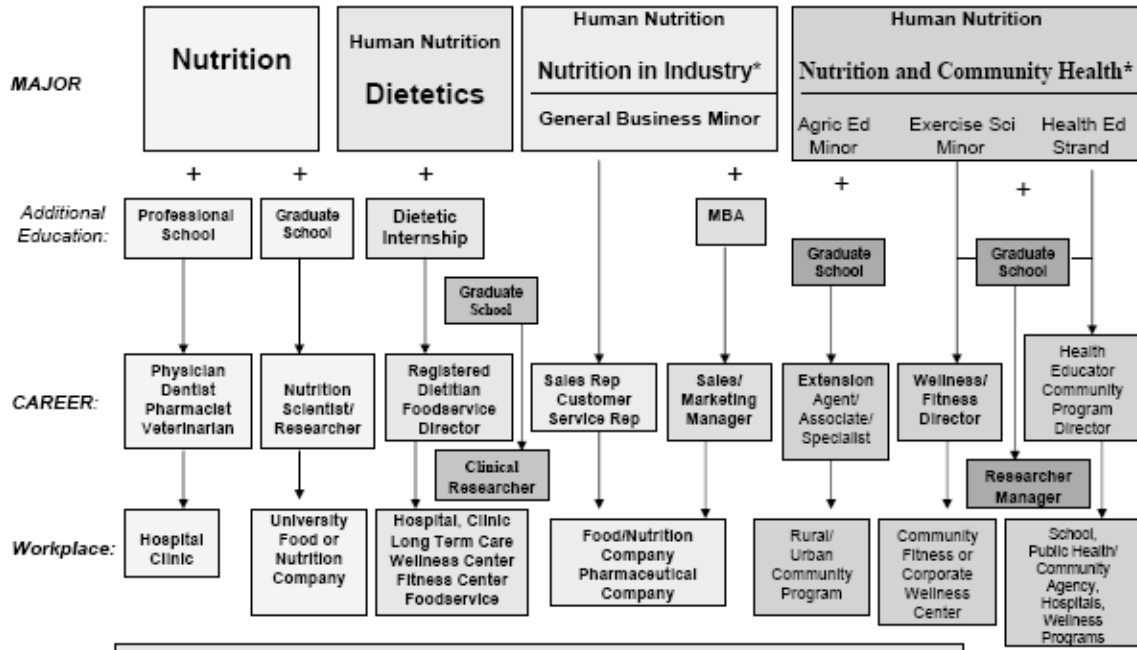
Admission Requirements

The Department recently increased the GPA required for admission to a major in the B.S. Nutrition or B.S. Human Ecology with the Human Nutrition major to a 2.5 based on the same rationale provided for this proposal. Requiring a C- or better in human nutrition courses will help maintain student academic performance is sufficient to be competitive for the advanced training required for the majority of meaningful career opportunities associated with the discipline of nutrition career goals.

Effective Date

The Department of Human Nutrition requests that this change in the grade requirement be effective beginning autumn 2008.

The Ohio State University
 Department of Human Nutrition
Undergraduate Majors and Career Options



*Eight additional courses and the dietetic internship are required to also become a Registered Dietitian.